



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 04/23/05

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 9:00 AM JEFFERSON CUTTER HOUSE
 4/23/05

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan	Fey*	Dunn	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey	Connors*	Simmons		
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*		Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Manager Brian Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager Nancy Galkowski, Selectman Jack Hurd, Selectman Annie LaCourt, Paul Bayer, Gordon Jamieson

MINUTES of 4/8 approved. Unanimous.

ART 35 PRIVATE WAYS: Hurd, using a letter from the Town Counsel, requested approval to borrow funds to start the private way repair program. Abutters would be required to provide 1/3 the total cost as a down payment. The remaining cost would be recovered by a tax lien. The Town would charge a 2% management fee. There would be no tax revenue impact. The revised procedures will be addressed separately. Hurd agreed to find out how much the Town is currently owed for private way repair. Some FinCom members question whether the town should provide this service. VOTED to authorize borrowing \$800k. 10-2.

RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS:

Galkowski, using a handout, requested the following:

To Unemployment Compensation to cover unanticipated School RIFs VOTED \$76000 Unanimous

To Fire Department to cover Maimone's retirement buyout. Could not leave position vacant long enough.

VOTED \$62462. Unanimous. Sullivan requested to track Town's retirement buyout liability and to consider funding it.

DuBois reviewed requests from Krepelka:

To BOS to fund 1st Special Town Meeting. VOTED \$3744 Unanimous.

To BOS to fund override election. VOTED \$33362 10-0-1

PAYROLL ADJUSTMENT: Galkowski, using a detailed spreadsheet, explained her plan to fund the final week in FY05 which ends 7/1 and was budgeted to be paid in FY06. Based on projections of remaining funds in each department, she is able to cover the \$203k payroll with some margin with a variety of transfers. This will reduce the Free Cash available to appropriate in FY07. VOTED to approve the proposed transfers. Unanimous.

SNOW & ICE DEFICIT: Galkowski, using a handout, detailed how the \$1122750 deficit will be covered. VOTED to appropriate from free cash or state aid the balance of \$305k. Unanimous.

MANAGER'S BUDGET W/O OVERRIDE: Sullivan reviewed a revised list of cuts approved by the BOS and totaling \$949794. He was questioned closely on all items to the satisfaction (and dismay) of the FinCom except for deleting the Youth Services subsidy. The FinCom, after much discussion VOTED to restore the full Youth Services subsidy of \$198508. Unanimous. The FinCom then voted to take \$105000 from the Natural Resources budget in DPW and \$91000 from DPW overtime. Unanimous. This means limited playing field maintenance.

Sullivan also reviewed the revised revenue estimates included on his reductions handout. Some of these apply w/ or w/o an override. He intends to increase fees across the board. VOTED to increase the transfer from the antenna fund to the capital budget by \$100k w/ or w/o OR. Unanimous. VOTED to decrease the appropriation to the insurance budget by \$100k w/ or w/o the OR. Unanimous. VOTED to drop trash service to buildings w/ more than 4

units thus saving \$75k from collection and \$50k from disposal in the w/o OR budget. All of these changes are included in the budget summary prepared by Galkowski in FinCom format & provided as a handout.

ADD BACKS W/ OR: Sullivan provided a handout with 5 items which he justified.

VOTED \$50k for one patrolman. Unanimous.

VOTED \$21k for library. Unanimous

VOTED \$30k for field maintenance workers. Unanimous.

VOTED \$30k increase for Fire Dept overtime. Unanimous. Sullivan intends to hold the budget even if minimum manning objectives are not met at times.

VOTED \$10k for town worker training. Unanimous.

Also

VOTED \$15k for holiday lights. 6-4.

BUD 19 EDUCATION: With the latest revenue numbers, the w/o OR budget can be increased \$120k.

ART 47 CAPITAL BUDGET: Foskett provided handouts detailing the w/ & w/o OR capital budgets. Neither includes the Park Circle Fire Station. Galkowski reviewed the differences. VOTED to support the w/o OR budget with the error the interest expense corrected.. Unanimous.

BOS W/O OR: DuBois presented Krepelka's recommendations. Sullivan suggested that cutting the webmaster would be unwise. VOTED to eliminate the part time telephone operator (\$18240) and to reduce Comptroller's expenses by \$27672 for a total of \$45912.

ASSESSOR W/O OR: VOTED to reduce by \$8300. Unanimous. No direct input from this office.

TREASURER BUDGETS (includes parking & postage): VOTED to reduce by \$35k from previously voted budget. Unanimous. Foskett to discuss w/ Bilafer on Monday.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$257,500-76000-62462-3744-33362=\$81,932

COMMITTEE: The FinCom meets at 7:30 PM before Town Meeting except not next Monday because of conflict w/ State Of The Town.

Peter B Howard Secretary 4/23/05

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site